

Lost Continent



Book Two
of Six



LOST CONTINENT BOOK 2 OF 6, OCTOBER 1990.

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Lost Continent logo designed by Tom Orzechowski.

In this English edition of *Lost Continent*, some artwork has
been reversed to read left-to-right for the American audience.



Akihiro Yamada's **LOST CONTINENT**

Art and Story by Akihiro Yamada
Translated by Alan Gleason and Toren Smith
Lettered and Retouched by Tom Orzechowski
Edited by Greg S. Balsden

Originally published as *The Last Continent*
by Tokyo Sanseisha



A large, dark, swirling typhoon dominates the upper half of the image. The eye of the storm is visible at the top center, surrounded by dense, textured clouds. Below the typhoon, a city street is shown in the foreground, featuring several cars, a bus, and buildings. The scene conveys a sense of a powerful natural disaster approaching or hitting an urban area.

TYphoon
NUMBER FIVE,
WHICH FORMED IN
THE CAROLINE
ISLANDS, HAS GROWN
INTO A MAJOR STORM
WITH HUNDRED-MILE-
PER-HOUR WINDS
NEAR THE CENTER,
AND GUSTS OF UP
TO ONE HUNDRED
AND FIFTY
MILES PER
HOUR.

IT IS NOW
MOVING
NORTH AND
INLAND AT
A SPEED
OF FORTY
MILES PER
HOUR...

ZAK



... ACCOMPANIED
BY HEAVY
RAINS OF 27 TO
31 INCHES
WITHIN A
120-MILE RADIUS.
RESIDENTS ARE
ADVISED--

THEY
SAID IT
WAS A
WILD
DOG,
RIGHT?

DID YOU
SEE THE
POLICE
REPORT?

THERE
AREN'T
ANY
WILD
DOGS
IN THAT
AREA.

--JAPAN
METEOROLOGICAL
AGENCY
WARNS
ALL SHIPS
SAILING IN THE
VICINITY TO
RIG FOR A
STORM--

KIRINO
CAME
TO TELL
ME SOME-
THING.

AND
HE WAS
MURDERED
BECAUSE
OF IT.

THAT'S
WHAT I
THINK.

THIS
IS A REAL
EXAMPLE OF
WHAT THEY
CALL THE
"ARCHAEOLOGIST'S
BLUES."

RIGHT.
A TOTALLY
ANACHRONISTIC
DISCOVERY.
IT'S GOT ME
BAFFLED,
HAZEKURA.

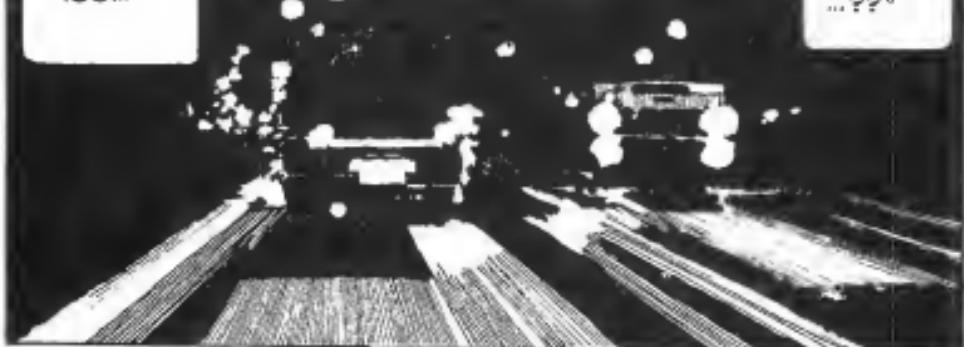
TO BE
HONEST,
I WISH I
HADN'T
AGREED TO
THE POLICE
REQUEST FOR
AN EXPERT
OPINION.

"BASED ON
THE TRACKS
LEFT AT THE
SITE, ONE HAS
TO CONCLUDE
THAT THE
KILLER WASN'T
A DOG--
IT WAS A
CAT."



"AND A
RATHER
LARGE
ONE,
TOO... "

"YOU
MEAN,
LIKE A
TIGER OR
LEOPARD
???"



"I WISH! THERE
WOULD BE ANY
NUMBER OF
PLAUSIBLE
EXPLANATIONS
FOR THAT. BUT A
HUGE BEAST, OF
THE CAT FAMILY,
WITH THIRTY-
CENTIMETER
TUSKS... ?"



"WHAT
ANIMAL
FITS THAT
DESCRIPTION,
JEROME?"

"I DON'T
EVEN
WANT TO
THINK
ABOUT
IT..."

"I
MEAN,
IT'S
INSANE..."





"WHO'S GOING TO
BELIEVE THAT A
SABRETOOTH TIGER,
A CREATURE
EXTINCT FOR FIFTY
THOUSAND YEARS,
COULD APPEAR IN
TWENTIETH CENTURY
TOKYO AND ATTACK
SOMEONE...?"



HEY, I
HAD NO IDEA
YOU HAD
SUCH A NICE
SET-UP
HERE AT
NITTO U...



YEAH,
BUT I'M
HARDLY
EVER
HERE...

SO--
HOW
DID IT
GO?
FIND
ANY-
THING?





SOICHI
KIRINO,
BORN IN
1910 IN
KAMAKURA
CITY...

...FORMERLY
A MASTER
SERGEANT
IN THE
ARMY.



WITH
THE KISKA
GARRISON
DURING THE
WAR, ASSIGNED
TO THE
GERTRUDE
COVE
AREA.

REPORTED
M.I.A. DURING
THE KISKA
EVACUATION
ON JULY 28,
1943...



... BUT ALSO
REPORTED
DISCHARGED
IN 1954.

NO RECORD
OF HIS
WHEREABOUTS
IN THE
INTERVENING
ELEVEN
YEARS.

THAT'S
ALL,
huh?

THERE'S NO DOCUMENTATION WHATSOEVER ON HIS YEARS WITH THE ARMY RESEARCH INSTITUTE. OUR RESEARCH DEPARTMENT AT THE PAPER CAME UP DRY, TOO-- NOTHING IN THE MORGUE AT ALL.



KISKA
...



WHAT...?



Hmm...
THAT'S IN THE ALEUTIANS, ISN'T IT?



SO IT'S PRETTY CLOSE TO THE ARCTIC OCEAN...



ARE YOU SUGGESTING ...?



OUR MYSTERY MAY BE SOLVED.

KIRINO CAME TO SEE ME BECAUSE OF THE ARTICLE YOU WROTE ABOUT THE SHIRASE.

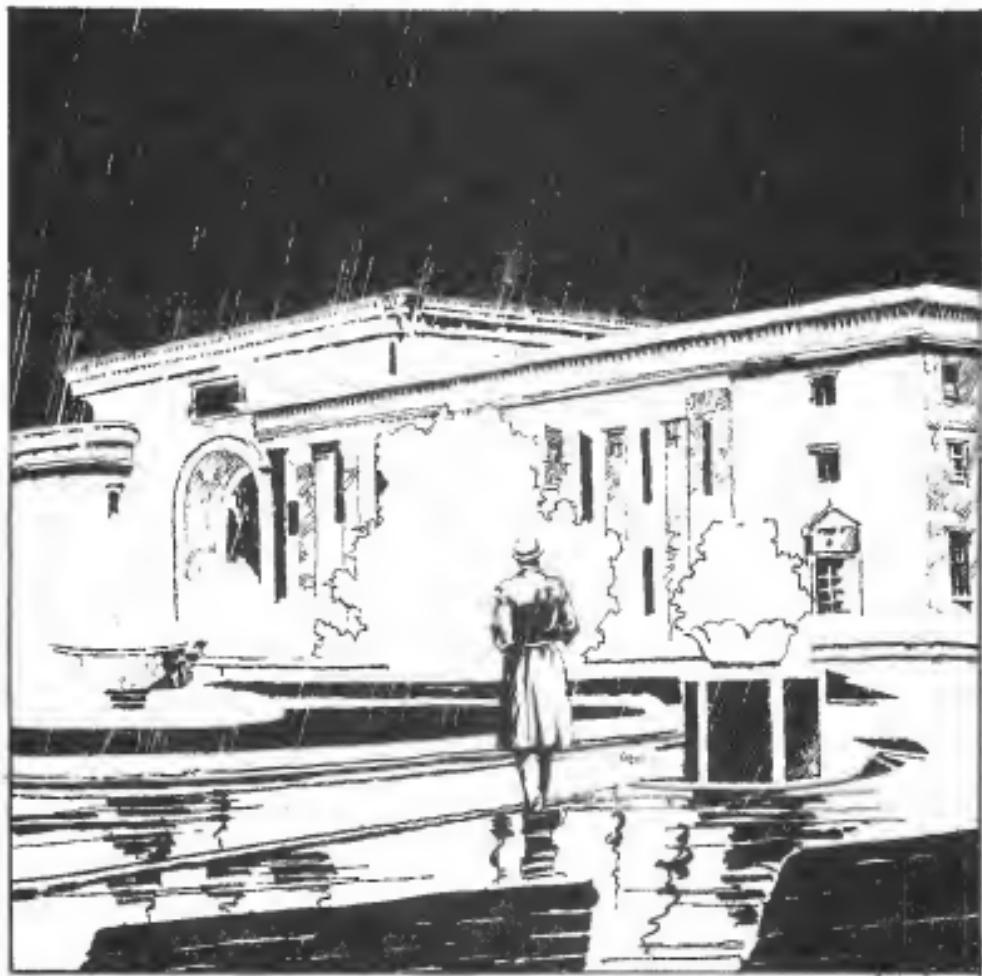
AND THE SHIRASE WAS HEADING FOR THE NORTH POLE, BUT DRIFTED IN FROM THE SOUTH A YEAR LATER.

Y'KNOW
WHAT I
THINK?

THE
LOST YEAR
OF THE SHIRASE,
AND KIRINO'S
MISSING
ELEVEN YEARS,
ARE ONE
AND THE SAME
PHENOMENON.

A
JOURNEY...

...TO
THE
CENTER
OF THE
EARTH?



DON'T
GET
UPSET,
BUT--



I ASKED
THE
RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT
TO CHECK
YOU OUT
ALONG WITH
KIRINO.

AS A
JOURNALIST...

... WELL,
PERSONALLY,
TOO-- I FIND
PROFESSOR
HAZEKURA
TO BE A VERY
INTERESTING
INDIVIDUAL.

AND?

DID
YOU
LEARN
ANYTHING?

WHILE HOLDING DOWN A LECTURER'S POSITION AT NITTO UNIVERSITY, YOU'VE ALSO STUDIED ETHNIC MINORITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD-- THEIR LANGUAGES, CUSTOMS, RELICS...



IN 1953, YOU REACHED CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS, WHICH YOU REPORTED AT AN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE THAT YEAR.



NAMELY...



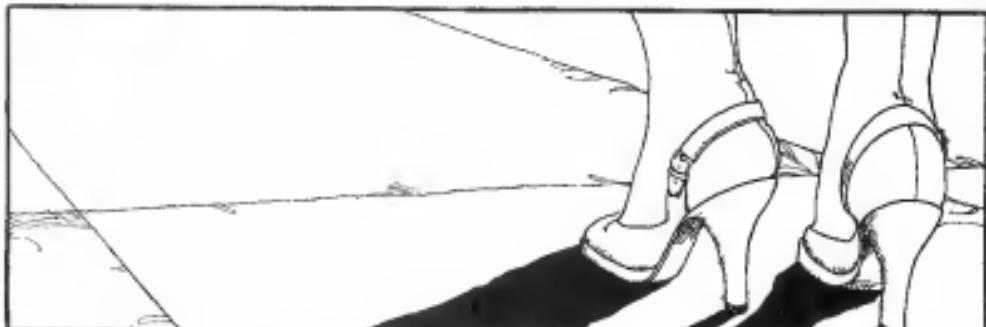
THAT AT
NUMEROUS POINTS
ON THE EARTH'S
SURFACE, AND MOST
NOTABLY AT THE NORTH
AND SOUTH POLES,
ARE TUNNELS LEADING
TO A HUGE CAVITY
INSIDE THE EARTH,
WHERE A LOST
CONTINENT LIES...

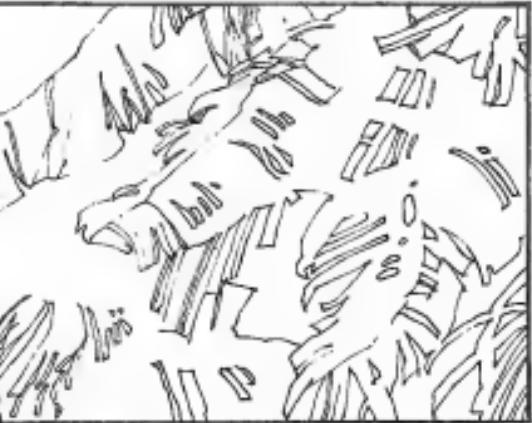
CORRECT
SO
FAR...?



AND?

YOU
LOST YOUR
TENURE AT
NITTO, BUT
DR. TONEH AND
OTHERS AT
TEITO UNIVERSITY
SUPPORTED
YOU.

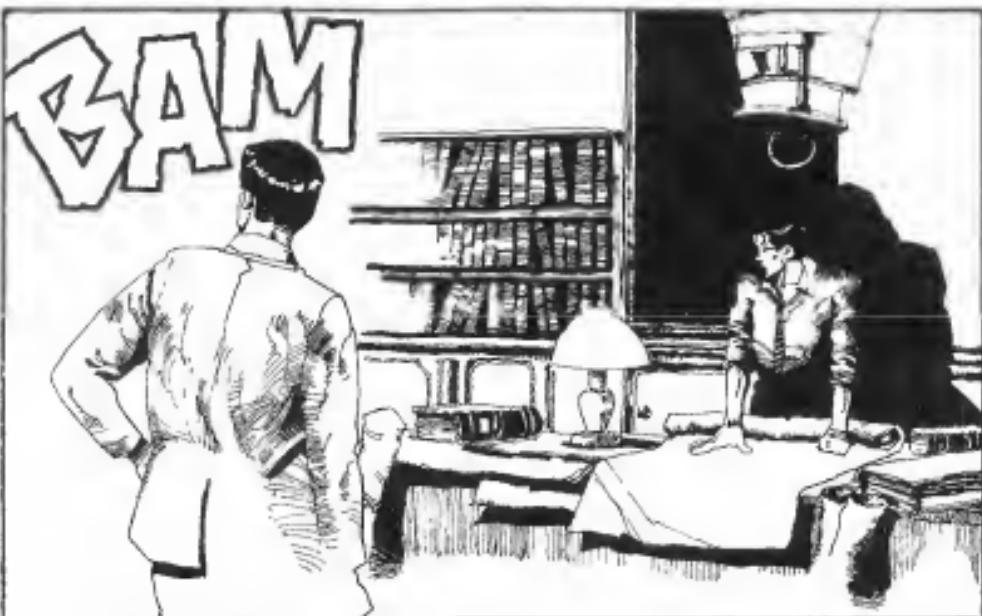




YOUR
RESEARCH
IS DEAD
RIGHT,
MR. NARUSE.

AND YOUR
THEORY
...?

WELL,
I'M
CONVINCED
IT'S
CORRECT...
NATURALLY.







SKRASH!

AAAAA!















UH...
SO IT
DOES.



ANYWAY,
GUESS WE
SHOULD CALL
IT A NIGHT
AND MAKE A
FRESH START
TOMORROW.



SO WHAT
IS THIS...
THIS
CRAP
ABOUT A
SABRE-
TOOTH
TIGER???

YOU
DECIDE
TO TRY
OUT FOR
A JOB
WITH THE
TABLOIDS
?!

BUT
I WAS
THERE!
I SAW
THE WHOLE
THING
MYSELF!

SAY,
CHIEF!



KIRINO'S
DAUGHTER HAS
IDENTIFIED THE
BODY, AND THE
COPS'RE STILL
SAYING A
STRAY DOG
DID IT.



KIRINO'S
DAUGHTER?

Oh, HEY,
NARUSE--
SHE
ASKED FOR
DIRECTIONS
TO YOUR
PLACE.

SOME-
THING
ABOUT
BUSINESS
WITH DR.
HAZEKURA.







THE
REASON
I CALLED
ON
YOU SO
SUDDENLY
...

...IS TO
GIVE
YOU
THIS.

MY
FATHER
TOLD ME
TO BRING IT
TO YOU IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENED
TO HIM.

WHAT
IS
IT?

WELL,
LET'S
SEE.

I
DON'T
KNOW.
HE TOLD
ME
NOT TO
LOOK
INSIDE.

佐倉 春介先生

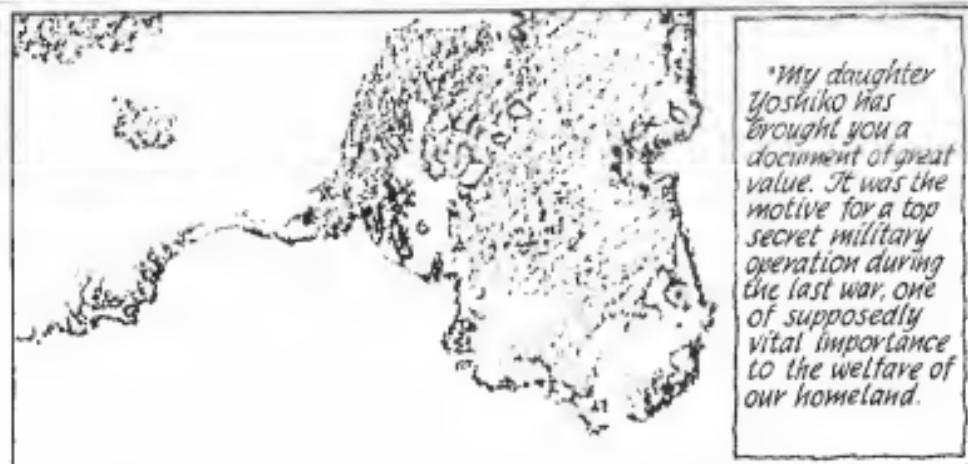
*



* DR. KYOSUKE HAZEKURA



*Dear Dr. Hazekura:
Please forgive
my impropriety
in delivering this
letter to you so
suddenly, without
any proper
introduction.



*My daughter
Yoshiko has
brought you a
document of great
value. It was the
motive for a top
secret military
operation during
the last war, one
of supposedly
vital importance
to the welfare of
our homeland.



"I decided to give this to you after reading an article in the Tokyo News today, July 30. Your article about the incident involving the polar expeditionary plane Shirase bore a striking resemblance to the Army's secret research."



"In 1931, I was a post-graduate student..."

"...when I travelled to China to do excavation work with Dr. Meng Tsung-Wang, an archeologist from Shanghai.

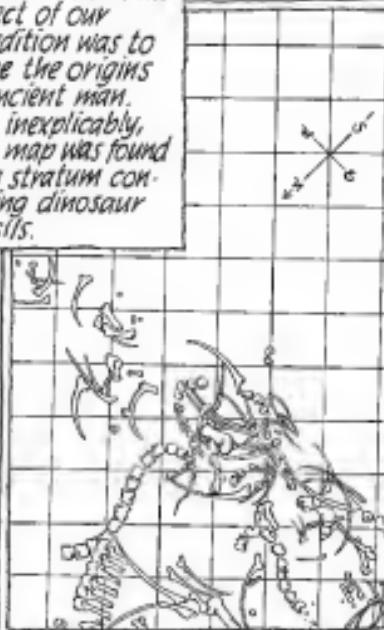
"It was on an expedition to central Asia that year that I discovered this document in the Karakorum ruins in Mongolia.



"There were several baffling aspects to this discovery."



"First of all, the object of our expedition was to trace the origins of ancient man. But inexplicably, this map was found in a stratum containing dinosaur fossils."



"According to legends of certain ethnic minorities in central Asia, traces of the capital of the great Uighur empire, which flourished in the distant past, could be found under the ruins of Karakorum."



CASPIAN SEA

ARAL SEA

LAKE BAIKAL

GREAT UIGHUR EMPIRE

TARIM BASIN

GOMI DESERT

INDIA

"This great Uighur Empire has nothing to do with the Uighur region of Sinkiang Province that we know today."

"It is said to have appeared around one million years ago--that is, about the end of the Tertiary period of the Cenozoic era.

"One million years ago: the estimated time of the birth of the human race.* By geological reckoning, it is inconceivable that either dinosaurs or an advanced civilization could have existed then."



* Until 1959, when fossils of Zinjanthropus boisei were dated, Homo Sapiens was generally thought to have originated one million years ago. The estimated time of Zinjanthropus' appearance is 1.75 million years ago.

"Dr. Meng was extremely intrigued by this riddle, and wanted to find corroborative evidence."

He took the map with him back to Shanghai and spent half a year studying it.

"How could ancient man have drawn such an accurate map of such a high-latitude region? How did he produce a map that would remain intact for one million years?



"And did the territory shown on this map, unknown to us, really exist?"

"There were so many riddles, and every one defied solution."



"The next year, in 1932, just a few days before the outbreak of the Shanghai incident, Dr. Meng called me into his library. This is what he said to me:



"Kirino, this map holds a secret that the Earth, in its great silence has never divulged. Though hard to believe, we must accept the existence of a lost continent and an unknown race of people. Take this map and return to Japan. I am old, and I doubt that I can pursue my studies much longer. You are still young; finish my research and solve this mystery."



"After returning home, I labored as an obscure scholar for more than ten years, pouring all my energy into the effort to complete this research."

"Never in my wildest dreams did I guess that it would be regarded as having tremendous military significance when the war came."



"In 1942, I was drafted into the army. One day I was summoned to the Army Science Research Institute.

"But the men I met were not with the Institute, which was engaged in weapons development at the time. Rather, they were the top brass in charge of strategic planning.

"I was sworn to secrecy, and given my mission.

"I was to conduct an on-site survey, confirm the existence of the unknown territory shown on the map, and report on possible invasion routes and its potential value as a strategic base.

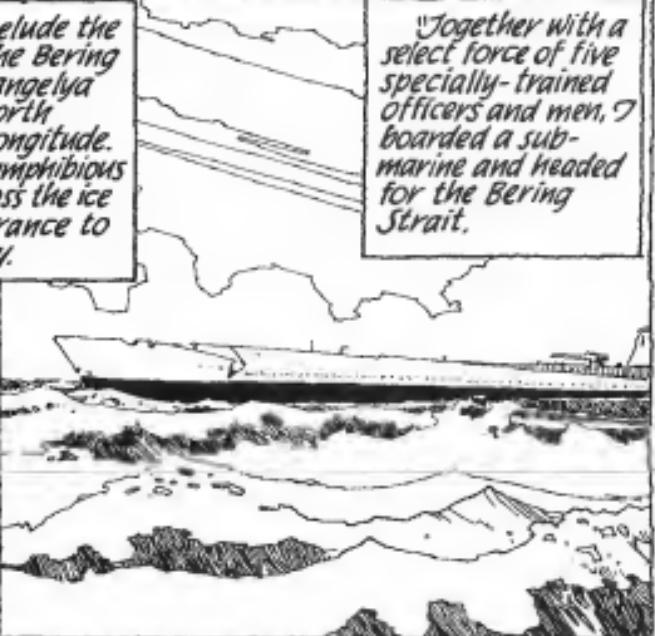
"I vehemently protested against this military use of my research, but to no avail. One individual could do little in a nation at war.

"I was assigned to the Kiska garrison in the Aleutian Islands.



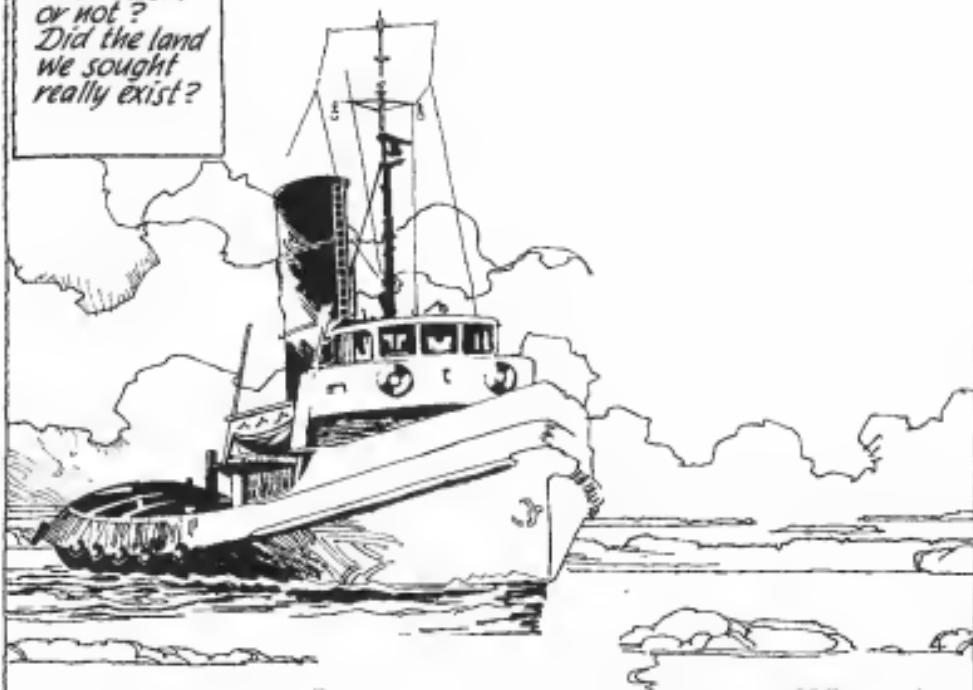
"Our orders were to elude the enemy, pass through the Bering Strait, and land on Wrangelya Island at 72 degrees north latitude, 100 degrees longitude. Then we would drive amphibious mechanized sleds across the ice and search for the entrance to the unknown territory.

"Together with a select force of five specially-trained officers and men, I boarded a submarine and headed for the Bering Strait.



"I can not tell you what happened after that.

"Was I
able to
reach my
destination,
or not?
Did the land
we sought
really exist?"



"For
some reason,
I have no
memory
whatsoever
of that
period."



"When I was
rescued, unconscious,
by a Norwegian
fishing boat,
eleven years had
elapsed."





"All I had left with me was this map, which I had sewn into the lining of my jacket. All my other records were gone--where, I have no idea."



"I pray that it will aid in your own research. Please use it to solve the mystery of my lost days and those of the Shirase, and to complete the research of Dr. Meng and I, Soichi Kirino."

"I beg you to disregard the impertinence of this old man, a total stranger to you, and heed his humble request."



THAT'S
VERY
KIND
OF
YOU.



I'LL CONTACT THE KYODO PRESS AGENCY RIGHT AWAY, AND HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW. I HOPE YOU'LL ATTEND.





KTHUMP



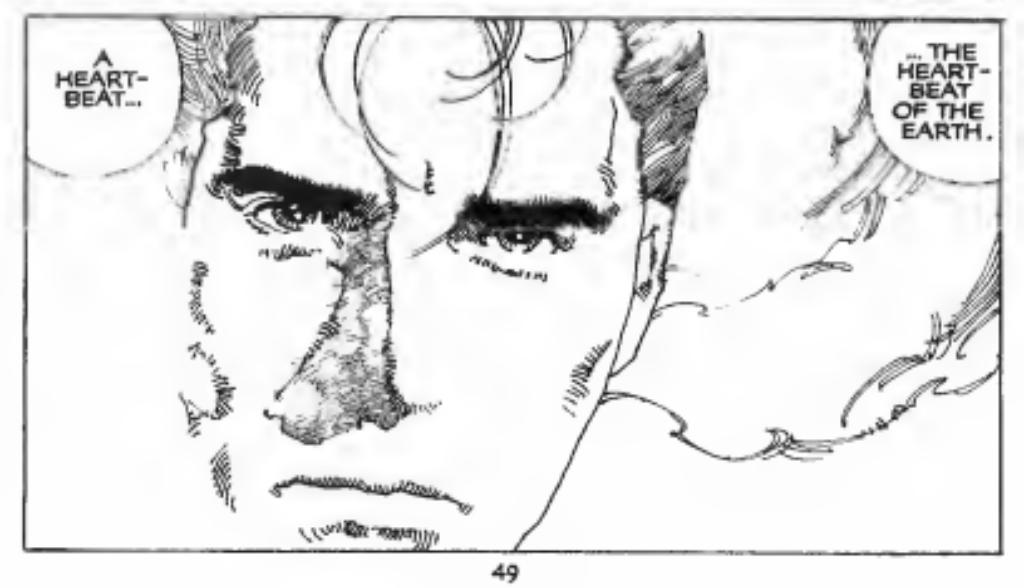
KTHUMP





WHAT
IS
THAT
SOUND
?

KHMP



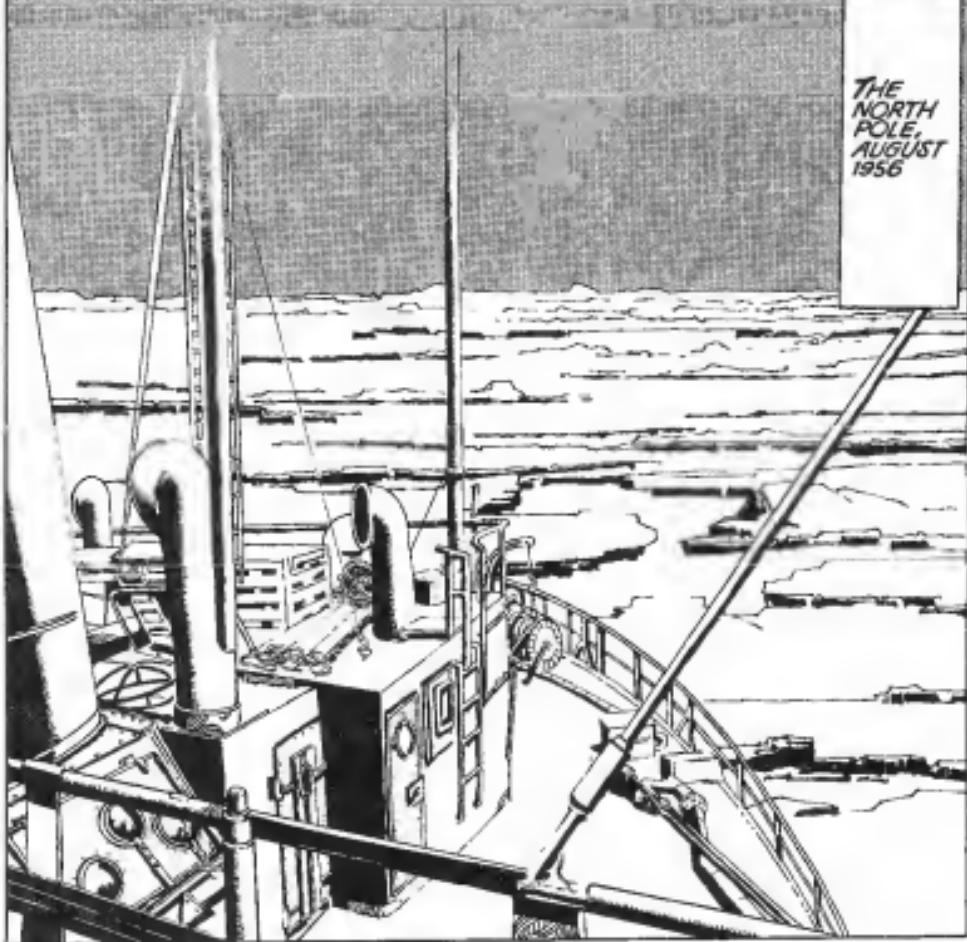
A
HEART-
BEAT...

... THE
HEART-
BEAT
OF THE
EARTH.



Akihiro Yamada's
LOST CONTINENT

THE
NORTH
POLE,
AUGUST
1956







hhngg-







TO BE CONTINUED...

Next month in
Akihiro Yamada's
LOST CONTINENT



1943!

The Imperial Japanese Aleutian campaign against Soviet Russia launches the Shirase exploratory mission to find a lost Arctic nation—and the expedition vanishes without a trace!

1956!

Journalist Naruse Osamu has joined forces with archaeology professor Hazekura Masamune, organizer of the ill-fated Shirase expedition, to research the past of Kirino, a stranger who was searching for Hazekura before being killed by a sabre-tooth tiger, supposedly extinct for fifty-thousand years! Kirino mysteriously disappeared in the 1943 Aleutian campaign, but reappeared in 1954, his whereabouts for the last eleven years... unknown!

The mystery deepens as Naruse and Hazekura are attacked by the sabre-tooth tiger! Who is the beautiful but elusive woman who warned them about the beast? What is the significance of Kirino's records, which pinpoint an ancient civilization littered with dinosaur fossils? There must be a connection between Kirino, the woman, the tiger...and the enigmatic

Lost Continent!



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